

Inspectional Services Department

PROTECT YOURSELF DONT FALL PREY TO UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS

The following are tips to follow when hiring a contractor to make necessary repairs or remodeling.



Inspectional Services Department

1010 Mass Ave., 5th Fl
Boston, Ma 02118
617-635-5300
Email:
isd@cityofboston.gov

If you have additional
questions call
Inspectional Services
at 635-5300

1. Do your homework, when searching for a contractor, hire a licensed professional contractor, all contractors must have a certificate of registration from the Massachusetts Home Improvement Contractor Program for work on a 1-4 family house.
2. Prior to agreeing to anything, homeowners should make sure all proposed work, material and costs are provided on a written contract. Never agree to a verbal contract. Make sure any additional work or costs are added to the original contract.
3. Contracts should contain the following: contractor's name, address (no P.O.Box) and license number.
4. Do not sign contracts with blank spaces.
5. Make sure all dates are listed; when the work will begin and when it will end.
6. Payments should be made in intervals, according to the progress of the work being done. Final payments should not be made until the job is completed to the property owner's satisfaction. You are not required to pay more than 1/3 of the contract price, or the cost of the materials necessary, to begin work.
7. Make sure the building permit is in the name of the contractor not the homeowner, this protects the homeowner if they have to pursue legal action against the contractor.

Ask for and check references!!!!

Need help with repairs? Call Department of Neighborhood Development, Home Works Center at 635-0600 <http://www.cityofboston.gov/dnd>

Problems regarding a home improvement contractor? Call the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs at 635-3834.
www.cityofboston.gov/consumeraffairs